



PRESS RELEASE
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THREE FOUND GUILTY OF FRAUD

Tampa, FL - A jury in U.S. District Court late yesterday afternoon found Joseph Cuciniello of Oldsmar, Florida, Dean A. Sinibaldi of Ft. Myers, Florida, and Gene A. Tyrrell of Glendale, Arizona, guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit securities and mail fraud and to sell unregistered securities, and one count of conspiracy to engage in money laundering, as well as other related substantive charges. The conviction for conspiracy to commit securities and mail fraud and to sell unregistered securities carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000 or of twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the scheme, and a term of supervised release of three years. The conviction for conspiracy to engage in money laundering carries a maximum sentence of ten years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000 or an amount not more than twice the amount of the criminally-derived property involved in the transaction, and a term of supervised release of three years. Sentencing hearings for the three defendants convicted at trial have not yet been set.

In addition to the two convictions for conspiracy, Joseph Cuciniello was also convicted of one count of securities fraud, three counts of sale of unregistered securities, eight counts of mail fraud, and 14 counts of money laundering. Cuciniello was acquitted of two counts of securities fraud and four counts of mail fraud.

In addition to the two convictions for conspiracy, Sinibaldi was also convicted of two counts of securities fraud, three counts of sale of unregistered securities, four counts of mail fraud, and 15 counts of money laundering. He was acquitted of one count of securities fraud and eight counts of mail fraud.

In addition to the two convictions for conspiracy, Tyrrell was also convicted of two counts of securities fraud, seven counts of mail fraud, and seven counts of money laundering. He was acquitted of one count of securities fraud.

In addition, some of the substantive charges as to each defendant were dismissed during trial with no objection by the government.

On December 10, 2002, a federal grand jury sitting in Tampa, Florida returned a Superseding Indictment in the case against Joseph Cuciniello, Dean A. Sinibaldi, and Gene A. Tyrrell, along with Gregory G. Schultz of Clearwater, Florida, Danny L. Wey of Dunedin, Florida, Robert M. Phillips of Palmetto, Florida, and Anthony Cuciniello, Jr. of Odessa, Florida, alleging multiple law violations, including charges that the defendants participated in conspiracies involving the sale of securities, unregistered securities and mail fraud, and money laundering.

According to evidence presented at trial, the defendants participated in an \$18.4 million Ponzi scheme from late 1996 through August 2000, utilizing a succession of unregistered securities offerings to defraud hundreds of investors out of significant savings.

The entities through which the defendants conducted their scam included Millennium Investment Inc. Trust and Millennium Investment Inc., the Stonehedge Group, Inc. entities, First Dominion Venture Capital, Inc., First Dominion Venture Capital, Global Research International, Inc., Impact Marketing, Inc., West Coast Distributors, Inc., Innovative Financial Concepts, LLC, Investor Business Journal, Inc., Delta Financial Services, Inc., Envision International, Inc., and The I.R. Firm, Inc.

Previously, Wey, Phillips, and Anthony Cuciniello, Jr., pled guilty and are cooperating in the government's ongoing prosecutive efforts. The three men are awaiting sentencing hearings which have not been set by the Court. Gregory G. Schultz was severed from the remaining defendants during trial and will be tried separately at a later date.

Yesterday's convictions of Joseph Cuciniello, Dean A. Sinibaldi, and Gene Tyrrell were the latest developments in a lengthy multi-agency investigation conducted by the U.S. Attorney's Office's Securities Fraud Task Force, a federal and state task force comprised of Special Agents with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other agencies, as well as Financial Investigators and Analysts with the State of Florida Department of Financial Services. The task force, based in the Middle District of Florida, has been investigating and prosecuting large-scale securities fraud for approximately nine years. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Rachelle DesVaux Bedke and Jay G. Trezevant.